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GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and
Emergency Preparedness

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PRESS RELEASE

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STATE AGENCIES RESPOND TO SEVERE WEATHER *Parishes Declare State of Emergency*

Baton Rouge, LA (March 21, 2012) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness' (GOHSEP's) Crisis Action Team (CAT) is monitoring the severe weather moving through Louisiana. GOHSEP support staff is in the field to assist local offices of emergency preparedness and coordinate resources as needed. Other state agencies are also either assisting or on standby as the weather moves through the state.

Acadia, Beauregard, Claiborne, Jefferson Davis, Natchitoches, St. Charles, Union, Vermilion and Vernon Parishes have declared a State of Emergency.

"We urge everyone to stay off the roads and take precaution as Louisiana gets impacted with more rain and damaging winds. As anticipated, rough weather is impacting the state right now which is all the more reason why people should have a game plan and be ready for any hazard at any time," said GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis.

State Response:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)

- Agents from the enforcement division are conducting search and rescue missions in Vernon Parish. Agents have rescued four people from a home off Maddox Rd.

Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

- DHH is monitoring boil advisories for the town of Merryville in Beauregard Parish.
- DHH is monitoring a boil advisory for the Sabine Parish #1 water system due to a power outage at a booster station.
- DHH is monitoring a boil advisory for the Natchitoches Parish #2 water system. The water system lost pressure due to a line breakage. While the breakage wasn't weather related, weather and high water in the area are impeding the ability to make the necessary repairs.

Louisiana National Guard (LANG)

- The Louisiana National Guard is providing a pallet of 6,500 sandbags to Vernon Parish, which will be picked up today from Camp Beauregard in Pineville.

Louisiana State Police (LSP)

- Troopers are monitoring road closures and redirecting traffic.

Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)

- Working with Louisiana State Police to identify flooded roadways.
- Barricades and signs are being put up to notify public of bridge and road closures.
- Road closures include:

Beauregard Parish:

- U.S. 171 in Deridder between Park Road and L.C. Lee Road
- La. 27 four miles south of Singer in Beauregard Parish

East Baton Rouge Parish:

- La. 427 (Acadian Thruway) between I-10 and Perkins Road

Natchitoches Parish:

- La. 120 between I-49 and La. 478
- La. 117 between La. 478 and Longleaf Trail south of Bellwood
- La. 3191 between La. 1 and La. 504
- La. 478 between La. 120 and La. 117
- La. 504 between La. 6 and La. 1
- La. 119 between La. 1 and La. 494

St. Mary Parish:

- La. 317 from the beginning of La. 317 near the coast to Scott Lane

St. Tammany Parish

- La. 1077/ Lake Road in Madisonville between the northshore of Lake Ponchartrain to La. 22

Vernon Parish:

- La. 8/La. 28 right westbound lane at Finley Bottom
- La. 8 at the Calcasieu River Bridge in Slagle
- La. 1146 at the Bundick Creek Bridge
- La. 8 at Comrade Creek Bottom
- La. 111 closed .4 miles north of junction with La. 464

Winn Parish:

- La. 156 between La. 1232 and La. 501

Bridge Closures:

- The Estherwood Pontoon Bridge on La. 91, (1.4 miles north of U.S. 90), near the village of Estherwood in Acadia Parish is closed because of high water.
- Motorists can get the latest updates on real-time traffic and road conditions by using the 511 Traveler Information System by dialing 511 from their telephone and saying the route or region about which they are seeking information. Travelers can also access this information by visiting the 511 Traveler Information Web site at www.511la.org

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

- In contact with the American Red Cross to assist with sheltering if needed.

For more information on safety tips, go to www.getagameplan.org.

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